

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An endoscopic suture apparatus comprising:  
an endoscope;

5 a puncture member which has at least one sharp  
tip;

a holding member which holds the puncture member  
and which is removably attached to an distal end of the  
endoscope;

10 a clamping member which is configured to move back  
and forth with respect to the endoscope and to clamp  
living tissues; and

a drive member which is configured to move the  
puncture member,

15 wherein the holding member has an opening portion  
which opens to an distal end; the opening portion, the  
distal end of the endoscope and the holding member  
define a treatment space; the clamping member is  
configured to project and retreat from and into the  
opening portion through the treatment space; and the  
20 puncture member is configured to move in the treatment  
space, in a direction that intersects with a  
longitudinal direction of the endoscope.

2. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to  
claim 1, which further comprises a receiving member  
25 configured to engage with the puncture member, and in  
which the puncture member is configured to move from a  
first position to a second position and pass through

the treatment space, the first and second positions being outside and inside the treatment space, respectively, and the receiving member engages with the puncture member when the puncture member moves to the  
5 second position.

3. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is deformable to change a size of the treatment space.

4. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to  
10 claim 1, wherein the holding member has a first member and a second member which define the treatment space, and the first and second member are moved relative to each other to change a size of the treatment space.

5. An endoscopic suture apparatus comprising:  
15 an endoscope;

a clamping member which is configured to move in a longitudinal direction of the endoscope and to clamp living tissues;

a puncture member which is to penetrate a living  
20 tissue clamped by the clamping member; and

a drive member which is configured to move the puncture member in a direction that intersects with a direction in which the clamping member is moved, to cause the puncture member to penetrate the living  
25 tissue.

6. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the puncture member and the drive

member are provided on the a first holding member which projects from and located at a distal end of the endoscope.

5           7. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the drive member is provided on the a first holding member which projects from a distal end of the endoscope, and has a second holding member which opposes the first holding member across the clamping member.

10           8. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first holding member has a guide portion which guides the drive member in the same direction as the clamping member is moved, and a bent guide portion which guides the drive member in a  
15           direction intersecting with a direction in which the clamping member is moved.

          9. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the second holding member has a receiving member which engages with the puncture member  
20           penetrating the living tissue.

          10. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second holding member is configured to rotate away from the clamping member.

25           11. The endoscopic suture apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein the drive member is a hollow needle, and the puncture member is arranged in the hollow needle.